

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 19 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8 and 11 through 14 are presently amended. New claims 17, 18 and 19 are hereby added. No new matter has been introduced by the above claim amendments and new claims, which are supported by the application as originally filed. Reconsideration of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

This responds to the Office Action dated in the present application. In the Office Action dated November 7, 2005, the Examiner rejects claims 1 through 11, 13 and 15 through 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,778,977 to Avadhanam et al. (the '977 patent) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,928,452 to Huerga. Claim 12 was also rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,694,593 to Baclawski in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0011268 to Tsuchida and further in view of the '977 patent. The Examiner objects to claim 14 as being dependent upon rejected base claim, but indicates claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


Applicants respectfully disagree with the above claims rejections, but in order to expedite prosecution of the present application have amended independent claims 1, 8, 11, 12 and 13 to incorporate elements of allowable claim 14. Applicants have also added new claims 17, 18 and 19, which also incorporate elements of allowable claim 14. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of the pending claims.

In view of the above, the Applicants submit that the present application is believed to be in condition for Allowance and a favorable disposition to that effect is respectfully

requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above amendments or any aspect of this response, he is kindly invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated number.

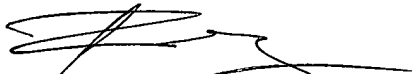
Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2/10/06



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